



Councilmember Charles Allen

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To designate the Little Brown Bat as the official state mammal of the District of Columbia.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

That this act may be cited as the “Little Brown Bat Official State Mammal Designation Act of 2019”.

Sec. 2. Official mammal of the District of Columbia.

(a) The Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) is a species of mouse-eared bat found throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed, including on Kingman Island.

(b) Bats are the only flying mammals. The Little Brown Bat can fly up to 22 miles per hour. True to its name, it is small, with a wingspan of 8-11 inches and a weight of no more than 14 grams—the same as 14 small paper clips.

(c) The Little Brown Bat uses echolocation to forage for flying insects such as mosquitoes, flies, beetles, and moths along the edges of wetlands, including the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers. It may consume up to 1,200 of these insects in a single night.

(d) The Little Brown Bat forms large summer maternity colonies, called roosts,

33 containing hundreds or even thousands of bats. They can roost in a variety of man-made
34 and natural structures, such as in hollow trees, under bridges, behind shutters, in
35 buildings, and in bat houses. Little Brown Bats hibernate in caves during the winter
36 months, which makes them especially susceptible to a fungal disease called White-Nose
37 Syndrome.

38 (e) The Little Brown Bat was once the most commonly found bat in North
39 America, but its population has been decimated by White-Nose Syndrome. In 2018, the
40 International Union for Conservation of Nature identified the Little Brown Bat as an
41 endangered species, after White-Nose Syndrome caused a loss of 90% of the population
42 in the northeastern United States.

43 (f) Little Brown Bats are long-lived—some have been documented to live up to
44 34 years—but each female bat produces only one pup a year. Hence Little Brown Bat
45 populations may take a long time to rebound, even if a cure for White-Nose Syndrome is
46 found.

47 (g) The Little Brown Bat has good friends in the Girl Scouts of the Capitol Hill
48 Cluster School, troops 44046, 44047, and 44051, who studied Little Brown Bats and
49 proposed that the Council adopt the bats as the official state mammal of the District of
50 Columbia.

51 (h) The Little Brown Bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) is hereby designated the official
52 state mammal of the District of Columbia.

53 Sec. 3. Fiscal impact statement.

54 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the
55 fiscal impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act

56 of 1975, approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

57 Sec. 4. Effective date.

58 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto
59 by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of
60 congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home
61 Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-
62 206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.